

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM
ACTION STEPS

1. Tyson will pay workers weekly thru March 25
 - a. Workers will be eligible for unemployment benefits after that time unless they relocate or leave earlier
 - b. Workers will still have health insurance thru that date
2. Federal government offers communities affected by large layoffs money for assistance for retraining and regional planning
 - a. Flint Hills Technical College and Emporia State University will investigate dollars for retraining and education programs
 - b. City will determine if there are any eligible regional planning grants that apply
3. Community Fair to be held Saturday, Feb. 16 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Flint Hills Technical College
 - a. The community fair is open to all job seekers (not just those affected by Tyson)
 - b. Kansas Dept. of Commerce has purchased airtime to advertise the event
 - c. Local and national employers will be in attendance
 - d. Kansas and federal Dept. of Labor will be in attendance to explain benefits and sign up eligible workers
 - e. Social Service agencies will be in attendance to educate all workers that are affected about what programs and services are available
 - i. Agencies planning to attend include SOS, SRS, Flint Hills Community Health Center, United Way, Mental Health Center of East-Central Kansas, Newman Regional Hospital
 - f. Banks and realtors will be invited to attend to discuss financial options for affected persons
 - g. Other services that will be available include résumé writing and interviewing skills
 - h. City will coordinate with Lyon County to have dedicated LCAT buses provide transportation to the community fair
 - i. City to coordinate additional written and oral Spanish translators
4. Kansas Works Rapid Response Team will hold additional information sessions on Monday thru Wednesday, Feb. 18-20 in the Anderson Building at the Lyon County Fairgrounds
 - a. Presenters will explain programs and benefits and help sign up eligible persons
 - b. Social service agencies are invited to set up information booths outside of the program area
5. ESU and Friends in Faith offering free tax preparation from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Learning Center in Flint Hills Mall
 - a. City and County to coordinate bus transportation with LCAT
 - b. City will look for more dates to accommodate the anticipated demand
6. Chamber of Commerce and Emporia Main Street have asked employers about current and possible future job openings

- a. Information on openings can be forwarded to local Kansas Works office and City Manager's office
- 7. Flint Hills Technical College offers a number of programs to retain workers
 - a. Programs include truck driving, certified Nurse Assistant, EMT, HOT, forklift operator, culinary arts – basic food preparation and welding.
 - i. FHTC setting up a special webpage on their website for affected persons. They are working on translating it into Spanish
 - b. The FHTC Adult Education Center has several programs
 - i. They include GED, adult education, English as a Second Language, and survival English
- 8. Emporia Main Street is offering entrepreneurial classes starting in March
 - a. Main Street and City to look for State funding to waive tuition for affected workers
 - b. Main Street and City are applying for a Community Capacity grant to help fund economic studies
- 9. Salvation Army will handle most of the immediate needs
 - a. City to work with United Way and Friends in Faith to hold regular food drives and fundraising for shelter and utilities
 - b. Salvation Army to look for overflow facility, possibly building just down the street, to store food
- 10. United Way will look at establishing an in-take center
 - i. Could be used as a “one stop shop” to provide all types of services for affected persons
- 11. Flint Hills Community Health Center will provide physical health services on a sliding scale based on ability to pay
 - a. Persons without insurance are eligible for service
- 12. SOS needs additional volunteers for their programs (CASA, Child Advocacy Center, domestic violence program)
 - a. City and SOS seeking Emergency Shelter grant
 - i. Additional grant funding is also needed
- 13. The Mental Health Center of East-Central Kansas will offer mental health services to all persons on a sliding scale based on the ability to pay or free if there is no ability to pay
 - a. All persons affected by the layoffs will receive priority from counselors
- 14. Social and Rehabilitation Office has developed an integrated response team to provide all types of services
 - a. SRS offers help with utility bills
 - b. SRS will help affected workers apply for benefits
 - c. SRS also helps with domestic violence and abuse cases
- 15. Friends in Faith can help provide written and oral translation and distribute information throughout the region
 - a. Friends in Faith can coordinate charitable giving for Salvation Army, including food and money for utilities
- 16. City to coordinate with the State increasing the number of van pool programs in Emporia to provide lower-cost commuting options